

Eureka No. 40, Wash House
Berwind-White Coal Mining Company
E of PA 56, N of Little Paint Creek
Scalp Level
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-184-F

HAER
PA,
11-SCA,
1-F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
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11-SCA.
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EUREKA NO. 40, WASH HOUSE

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Location: East of PA 56, North of Little Paint Creek, Scalp Level, Cambria, Pennsylvania

USGS Quad: Richland, Pennsylvania (I:24000)
UTM: 17 E.683520 N.4457880

Date of Construction: ca. 1920s

Builder: Berwind-White Coal Mining Company

Present Owner: Berwind Corporation

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The Wash House was contributory to the operation of Eureka No. 40. No. 40 was one of the largest and best equipped mines in the area of Windber, a coal town platted by Berwind-White Coal Mining Company.

Project Information: In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Blair and Cambria counties as the first step in identifying the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

The results of this project have been published in Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (1990), edited by Gray Fitzsimons and produced by HABS/HAER for the National Park Service.

Compiler: Nancy Shedd and Ken Heineman, Historians
Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

History:

This tall one-story brick building containing a gable roof was probably erected in the early 1920s and served as a wash house and change room for the miners. In 1923 the Berwind-White Company proposed to build basement stairs along the west side of the building and convert the lower space to a laundry. In the 1930s the company refurbished the basement to serve as a lamp house, where the miners' lights were recharged. In 1957 concrete block offices for the mine foreman and motor foreman were added to the main (north) facade of the building. The wash house has been abandoned since about 1980.

Sources:

- Alcamo, Frank Paul. The Windber Story: A Twentieth Century Model Coal Town. Windber, Pennsylvania: Frank Paul Alcamo, 1983.
- Berwind-White Coal Mining Company. "Eureka Number 40: New Cleaning Plant Plans," (original drawing dated 3 February 1928--DRG. NO. E18-3594--in possession of Berwind Corporation, Windber, Pennsylvania).
- Berwind-White Coal Mining Company. "Eureka Number 40: Surface Features," (original drawing dated 3 March 1955--DRG. NO. N2-5176--in possession of Berwind Corporation, Windber, Pennsylvania).
- Enzian, Charles. "Dry Cleaning at the Berwind-White Operations," The Mining Congress Journal, 13. (June 1927), 427-30.